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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 45

For week ending 8 November 1949

Volume 11

The International Week

In a disappointingly limited response to ECA chief Hoffman's pleas for greater European economic integration, the OEEC called for 50% of intra-OEEC trade to be freed by mid-December. The Hague Round Table Conference reached final agreement on union of the Netherlands and Indonesia. In the Greek case, the GA Political Committee voted (38-12) for an arms embargo against Albania and Bulgaria and for continuance of UNSCOP. Meanwhile, the Special Political Committee voted for separate SC reconsideration of nine previously rejected membership applications and decided (37-9-8) to ask a World Court opinion on the GA's authority to admit a state to the UN notwithstanding rejection by the SC.

Split in the Arab diplomatic front against Israel. An important indication that Arab diplomatic solidarity against Israel is breaking down was provided by an apparently well founded report that Abdullah of Jordan had secretly opened direct peace conversations with the Israelis. Hitherto, the dissension-torn Arab League has at least managed to preserve some negative unity in refusing to discuss peace face to face with Israel. However, enraged by Iraqi Premier Nuri's recent intrigues to unite Iraq and Syria, Abdullah has decided that he needs peace with Israel to free his hands for heading off this scheme, success of which would frustrate his own pet "Greater Syria" plans. In any case, it is reported that Abdullah wishes to annex Arab Palestine before 1 January 1950 and peace with Israel would simplify fulfillment of this project. While Egypt is still bent on face saving, there is at the same time, considerable responsible opinion in Cairo which also recognizes that the Palestine adventure was a blunder and that there is an ultimate need for some settlement with Israel.

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Similarly, if peace settlements are to be reached between Israel and its neighbors, it is probable that only bilateral negotiations of some sort will bring these about. While peace is hardly just around the corner, the approach of Jordan although still a cautious one constitutes an important step toward eventual normalization of relations between the Near East states.

Greek case in the UN. The Greek case resolution adopted by the GA Political Committee represents little more than a restatement of previous UN decisions and foreshadows no permanent solution of this problem through UN efforts. The recommended arms embargo against Albania and Bulgaria is merely an extension of previously ignored bans on aiding the guerrillas and will not prevent continued satellite assistance.

The USSR again vainly sought UN intervention in Greek affairs to cut off military assistance, pave the way for reintroduction of the guerrillas on the Greek political scene through a general amnesty, and secure Soviet participation in a frontier control commission and in the supervision of Greek national elections. Soviet unwillingness to offer concessions during the GA conciliation talks and Albanian and Bulgarian refusals to permit verification of their claimed inurement of Greek guerrillas are further indications that, regardless of tactical shifts in overall Soviet policy toward Greece, the USSR is not at present contemplating any alteration of its nonconciliatory approach to the Balkan question in the UN.

Small-nation trade unions plan strategy at Luxembourg Conference. The determination of small-nation European labor to have a substantial voice in the new Trade Union International to be established shortly is reflected in their decision to hold a strategy-planning conference in Luxembourg prior to the 26 November London Conference of Free Trade Unions. The Luxembourg meeting, called by Belgian labor, will bring together again the representatives of the six small powers (Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium and Luxembourg) which met for a similar purpose last April. Their current objectives are: (1) location of the new international's headquarters in Brussels; (2) appointment of a Belgian trade unionist to either the presidency or secretariat of the new international, and (3) increasing continental European representation on its 15-member executive

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committee from three to four, in order to counterbalance the two UK votes. The Scandinavians are reported particularly insistent on this last point as a means of avoiding big-power domination of the new international.

Italian Colonies developments. Two recent attempts to unravel some of the snarls in the knotty Italian colonies question seem in turn to have raised new difficulties. First, some Latin American nations had agreed with the Arab bloc on a ten-year tripartite trusteeship for Somaliland with Brazil, Egypt and Italy acting as trustees but leaving actual administration to Italy. However, naming Brazil and Egypt as trustees might make them administering powers entitled to seats in the Trusteeship Council. By adding an anti-colonial state like Egypt, this would upset the present balance in the TC, thus making the plan objectionable to the colonial powers. But the Arab states have now reportedly dropped this proposal and are willing to see Italian trusteeship with a three or four member advisory council, a solution much more likely to win GA approval.

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Communist Youth organizations renew "defense of peace" drive. Plans of the World Federation of Democratic Youth and its ally, the International Union of Students, for widespread demonstrations in Western countries demonstrate the Kremlin's continuing determination to use its front organizations to widen popular support for current Soviet "peace objectives." They hope to give renewed impetus to the movement "for the defense of peace" by an "International Day of Democratic Youth" on 10 November and an

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"International Day of Students" on 17 November. Where the emphasis will lie during the demonstrations is indicated in a questionnaire which the President of the Communist Italian Youth Alliance has posed to Italy's Catholic Youth. In this questionnaire the Catholic youth organizations are asked whether they will support: (1) outlawing of the atomic bomb and destruction of existing stockpiles; (2) withdrawal of Italy from the Atlantic Pact; and (3) a Peace Pact between the Great Powers.

Romulo's atomic rebus. Soviet acquisition of the atom bomb has, as expected, opened the floodgates to numerous well-intentioned proposals to compromise the divergent views of the majority and the USSR on this issue. General Romulo, suffering from delirium compromittens, the occupational disease of recent GA presidents (e.g. Australian, Evatt), has come forward with various suggestions for (1) a short term atomic armistice, with inspection; (2) interim prohibition, with proper safeguards; (3) a compromise between the majority plan and the Soviet plan; and finally (4) just some new approach. However, any truce to be effective demands just as elaborate verification machinery as a permanent convention. Without it, violation by at least one party is almost certain and the violator can profit from the truce to improve his position vis-a-vis the complying party with respect to the very activity intended to be prohibited. Nor is it easy to find room for compromise between controls which are watertight and those which are not. While there is little chance that the GA will agree on any compromise proposal, Romulo's suggestions are certain to influence some UN members. Thus, instead of clarifying the situation, such proposals serve merely to confuse thinking and divert attention from the principal issue involved - Soviet refusal to recognize the imperative need for nations to give up part of their "sovereignty" for the common good. Fortunately the Canadian-French resolution seems to focus on this essential need.

OECD recovery decisions disappointing. Despite ECA Administrator Hoffman's fervent plea for bold steps toward Western European economic integration, the OECD's recent recovery proposals were tentative and half-hearted. Although the OECD Council decided that member nations should seek to free at least 50% of private intra-OECD trade by mid-December, this proviso was hedged about by escape clauses and, moreover, ignored governmental trading, an important part of the trade of such countries as the UK. The Council also agreed that next year's intra-European payments plan would allow greater transferability of

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drawing rights, an objective fruitlessly sought by ECA this year but blocked by Britain. Future Marshall Plan appropriations, the Council decided, will be automatically divided in the same ratio as this year, thus avoiding the sharp clashes over division of aid which characterized previous allocations. This proviso will also permit those countries which can reduce their estimated deficits to earn free dollars, a potent incentive. Nevertheless the Council's action fell short of the drastic measures required to meet ECA objectives, although it constitutes at least a start.

However, as forecast by the Council's communique, a more vigorous attack on trade liberalization is in the offing, in the proposed Franco-Italian-Belgian monetary bloc. Apparently convinced that a larger grouping including Britain is not feasible due to UK hesitation, these countries are planning to create an area in which both trade and payments will be almost wholly freed. It is hoped that Western Germany and other continental countries could join later. Such a proposal, if vigorously implemented would be a real step toward at least continental economic integration and the freeing of intra-European trade.

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